

MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT GUIDE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVELING

What is leveling?

Leveling is an effort to group students by demonstrated abilities.

Leveling helps to tailor instruction to the needs of students.

Leveling is a method of challenging all students.

What Leveling Is Not

Leveling is not a way to lower the standards for any students, particularly those who may be struggling.

Leveling is not a process to place a student without the possibility of change.

Background Information

The Board of School Committee voted in June 2010 to begin leveled classes in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at all middle schools starting September 2010. Each of the three subjects has three levels of classes. Students' levels are to be flexible with student performance determining any change.

Criteria for Determining Levels

The Fall 2009 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) and 2009-2010 school district assessments for each student are used to determine levels in Reading and Mathematics. School district assessments are used to determine levels in Writing.

Leveled groupings are based on New Hampshire's rating scale of:

L1 is "Substantially Below Proficient"

L2 is "Below Proficient"

L3 is "Proficient"

L4 is "Proficient with Distinction"

Leveled classes in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics are noted using course codes:

Example: Mathematics

6 th grade	7 th grade	8 th grade
360 L1	370 L1	380 L1
361 L2-3	371 L2-3	381 L2-3
362 L4	372 L4	382 L3-4

Reading

GRADE 6

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students with a score of 556 or higher on the NECAP assessment. Those close to the 556 score are assigned to the L4 group if their scores on the District Reading assessment are above the 70th percentile.

Assignment to the L1 Course is based on students receiving a score below 530 on the NECAP assessment and scored below the 11th percentile on the District Reading assessment.

All others are placed in the L2-3 Course.

GRADE 7

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students who scored higher than 655 on the NECAP assessment or higher than 652 on the NECAP assessment with no District Reading assessment scores below L3.

Assignment to the L1 Course is for those students who scored below 629 on the NECAP assessment.

All others are placed in the L2-3 Course.

GRADE 8

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students who scored higher than 755 on the NECAP assessment or higher than 752 with no District Reading assessment scores below L3.

Assignment to the L1 Course is for those students who scored below 729 on the NECAP assessment.

All others are placed in the L2-3 Course.

Writing

GRADE 6

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students with combined scores on the January and June District Writing assessments greater than 38 or greater than 36 with no L2s on the District Writing assessment.

Assignment to the L1 Course is for those whose combined scores are below 16 on the District Writing assessment.

All others are placed in the L2-3 Course.

GRADES 7 AND 8

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students who scored L4 on the most recent District Writing assessment. Students with consistent L4 scores on District Writing assessments in the past two years are also placed in the L4 Course. Assignment to the L1 Course is for those with a score of L1 on the most recent District Writing assessment or if their scores over the past two years are consistently below L2. All other students are placed in the L2-3 Course.

Math

GRADE 6

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students receiving a score higher than 555 on the NECAP assessment or score above 550 on NECAP with L4 on the January and May District Math assessments. Assignment to the L1 Course is based on students receiving scores below 533 on NECAP and did not receive L2 or higher on the District assessments. All other students are placed in the L2-3 Course.

GRADE 7

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students receiving a score higher than 652 on the NECAP assessment or those above 647 on NECAP with L4 on the January and May District Math assessments and with teacher recommendation.

Assignment to the L1 Course is based on students receiving a score below 633 on NECAP and did not receive L2 or higher on the District Math assessments. All other students are placed in the L2-3 Course.

GRADE 8

Assignment to the L4 Course is based on students receiving L4 (752) or higher on the NECAP assessment and score at least L3 on the January and May District Math assessments. Students with a high L3 score on the NECAP and District Math assessments may also be

included in the L4 Course. Assignment to the L1 Course is based on students receiving a score below 733 on NECAP and did not receive L2 or above on the District assessments. All other students are placed in the L2-3 Course.

New Students

Students new to the District who do not have NECAP scores will be placed in the middle group in each subject area, unless there is assessment evidence to place them in another leveled group.

Changes to Levels

Students' levels may change at the end of each quarter. Reading levels will be based on the two District Reading assessments in January and June. Math levels will be based on quarterly District Math assessments. Writing levels will be based on the two District Writing Assessments in January and June.